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Press Release

December 3, 2009

**Statement of Ambassador of the United States in France, Charles H. Rivkin**

As President Barack Obama's representative to France, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to President Sarkozy for his endorsement of President Obama's policy speech on the way forward in Afghanistan. As President Obama noted, the struggle in Afghanistan is one that we share with our democratic allies in Europe and elsewhere. France has demonstrated time and again its courage and its leadership in the struggle against extremism, and with President Sarkozy's words we take note that the historic Franco-American partnership is alive and well. The road ahead in Afghanistan will not be an easy one, but together with our French and other allies, the United States will pursue the fight against extremism and fanaticism, in the name of free people everywhere.